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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/512,079	07/25/2005	Elpidio Onifares Squadroni	SQUA3001/JEK	2882

23364 7590 10/18/2006

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
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REYNOLDS, STEVEN ALAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/512,079

Applicant(s)

SQUADRONI, ELPIDIO ONIFARES

Examiner

Steven Reynolds

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12/22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/25/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 12-16, 19, 20 and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eynard (FR1033262A). Regarding claims 12, 13 and 22, Eynard discloses a coin holder comprising at least one through seat, open at its upper and bottom ends (See Figs. 6-8 embodiments), having a diameter adapted to receive at its upper end a coin to be received in the holder, within which is located, at a short distance from the bottom end of the cylindrical seat (See Figs. 7 and 8 embodiment), an elastic element (elastic ring 5) that elastically reduces the effective diameter of the cylindrical seat and prevents coins received within said cylindrical seat, inserted from the upper end thereof, to fall down through the cylindrical seat without the intervention of an external force (See Figs. 6 embodiment); wherein the diameter of the cylindrical seat is selected to correspond with a diameter of multiple similar coins to be stacked in the cylindrical seat, and wherein the number of coins that may be inserted within the cylindrical seat varies in accordance with the height of the cylindrical seat (See Fig. 6 embodiment).

Regarding claims 14-16 and 19, Eynard discloses a coin holder wherein the elastic element is an annular ring housed inside a corresponding annular seat provided along an inner surface of said cylindrical seat (See Fig. 7 embodiment); the resistance provided by the elastic element may be overcome by exercising a slight pressure on a top coin of a stack of coins received in the cylindrical seat, such that the release of the coin that is located at the bottom of the stack is effected (See Figs. 4 and 5 embodiments); the distance of the elastic element from the bottom of the cylindrical seat is substantially equal to the thickness of a coin to be received in the cylindrical seat (See Figs. 6 and 8 embodiments, Fig. 6 shows the thickness of the coin and Fig. 8 shows the thickness of the distance of the elastic element from the bottom of the cylindrical seat); said coin holder including a plurality of laterally connected cylindrical seats of varying size arranged in a pattern (See Fig. 1 embodiment); and in order to avoid the accidental release of a coin from the cylindrical seat upper end, when the coin holder is tilted or turned upside down the upper end is provided with a stop elastic element that prevents a coin, once it is inserted into the cylindrical seat through the upper end, to fall through said upper end (Elastic element shown on the upper end of the cylinder in Fig. 7 embodiment).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

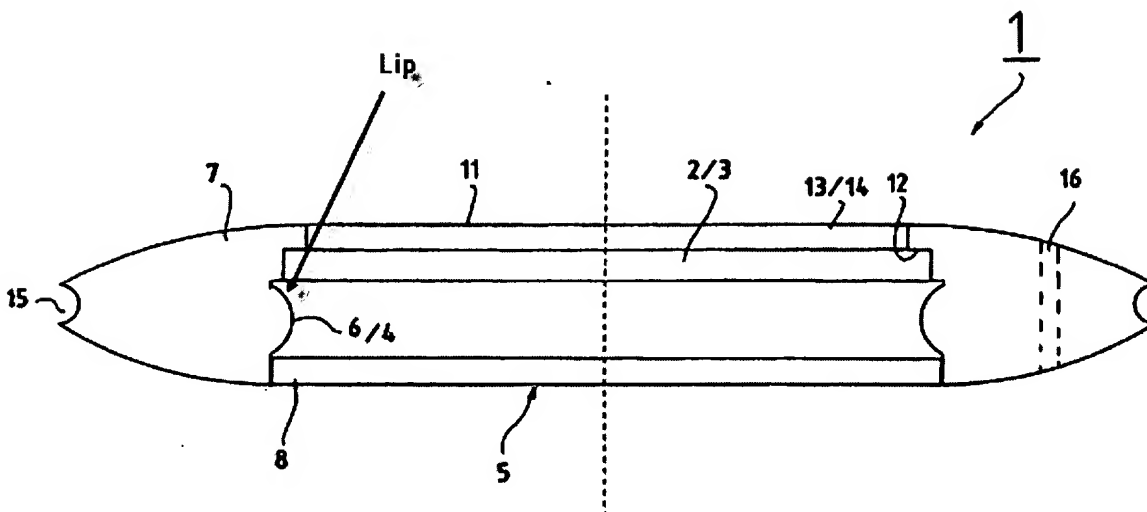
3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 17, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eynard (FR1033262A) in view of Goebbels (DE19537625A1). Eynard as described above discloses all the limitations of the claims except for the specifics of the cylindrical seat and the elastic element. However, Goebbels teaches a coin holder wherein the elastic element comprises a radially inwardly projecting protrusion obtained by moulding of the material of the annular seat (See Fig. 2 embodiment); and said protrusion comprises a tab or lip (See figure below) overhanging inwardly and slightly sloping downwards within the cylindrical seat, displaceable from a completely overhanging position located towards the inside of the cylindrical seat to a retracted position within a wall of the cylindrical seat formed within the thickness of the cylindrical seat.



Regarding claim 21, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have merely placed the elastic ring in the annular seat (10) as taught by Goebbels (Fig. 1 embodiment) instead of using a lower fixing ring to hold the elastic ring in place, since the applicant has not disclosed that the use of the lower fixing ring solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose as it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the elastic ring placed in the annular seat, as it can be inserted and removed from said annular seat without the need of a fixing ring.

### **Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Howard (US 3,085,378), Seghezzi et al. (US 3,558,007) and Towy (US 1,838,797).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Reynolds whose telephone number is (571)272-9959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571)272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SR

  
Mickey Yu  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3728